

Don't be partisan, PM tells civil servants

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** reminded civil servants tonight that although they cannot close their eyes to or isolate themselves from developments in the country, they should not play active roles in political parties or indulge in partisan politics.

The involvement of civil servants in anti-Government activities was unhealthy and could cause disruptions in administration, he said at the annual dinner of the Diplomatic and Administrative Officers Association at the Subang Merlin near here.

The Prime Minister said there would be chaos if it could not be determined who was running the Government and who was in power.

This could force the authorities to take "stern action" and democracy would be destroyed in the process, he added.

Dr Mahathir said certain quarters were working to undermine the loyalty of civil servants to the elected Government.

"Their hope is to undermine the effectiveness of the Government."

The Government could not explain the true situation or counter accusations hurled against it because this was against its policy of not involving civil servants in partisan politics.

Obstructions

There were signs these people had succeeded (in undermining the Government) as was evident during an election where some civil servants openly supported groups opposing the Government.

Dr Mahathir cited another incident "in a certain State" where officers refused to abide by Government directives.

"People who were appointed by the Government to carry out limited tasks dared to openly challenge and obstruct Government decisions."

Dr Mahathir said the Government was responsible for defending a system and practice which had benefited the nation.

"It is therefore better for us to return to this system in our interest and that of the nation."

Civil servants were pace-setters whose role should be an example to others.

There was need for a more efficient and more dedicated civil service, he added.